

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-66. (Cancelled).

67. (Currently Amended) A method for suppressing bacterial growth in a blood fraction, comprising

- (a) providing a blood fraction containing platelet concentrate;
- (b) leuko-reducing the platelet concentrate in said blood fraction to form a prestorage leuko-reduced platelet concentrate; and
- (c) adding to said blood fraction ~~a compound selected from the group consisting of L-carnitine and salts of L-carnitine~~ in an amount effective to suppress bacterial growth in said blood fraction;

wherein said method comprises suspending said prestorage leuko-reduced platelet concentrate in a support solution at 22 °C, which comprises said L-carnitine compound in a concentration of ~~0.25 to 50~~ 5 mM,

and wherein said prestorage leuko-reduced platelet concentrate ~~may be effectively~~ is stored for up to 8 days.

68. (Cancelled).

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67, further comprising adding to said fraction a compound selected from the group consisting of acetyl L-carnitine, propionyl L-carnitine, ~~butyryl~~ butyryl L-carnitine, isobutyryl L-carnitine, valeryl L-carnitine and isovaleryl L-carnitine.